



U.S. Department of Justice

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS
*Acting United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

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Nine Men Guilty in 2007 Brutal Assaults of Corrections Officer and Inmate at the D.C. Jail

WASHINGTON - A District of Columbia Superior Court jury has found Alonzo Vaughn, 24, and Carl Morton, 27, guilty of Aggravated Assault on a Corrections Officer, for the brutal attack of Corrections Officer Sergeant Charles White on December 27, 2007 at the D.C. Jail, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. The jury also found Bobby Johnson, 29, guilty of Felony Assault for his simultaneous assault on another jail inmate, Deon Spencer. The jury's verdicts conclude the prosecution of several current and former inmates of the D.C. Jail for these assaults. Other indicted co-defendants, Floyd Tomlinson, Anthony Wilson, Ronald Cheadle, Deon Collins, Robert Lyles and Waseam Al-Delaema, entered guilty pleas in this case prior to trial. Vaughn, Morton and Johnson will be sentenced in February 2010 by Judge Robert Morin.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 27, 2007, Floyd Tomlinson and another inmate instigated an assault on Deon Spencer as he sat in a common area of a jail cellblock. Defendants Wilson, Cheadle, and Collins joined in the assault, repeatedly kicking and hitting Spencer. Bobby Johnson observed the initial attack on Spencer and eventually joined in the assault, climbing over tables, removing an unknown object from his prison jumpsuit and stabbing Spencer, before Spencer could be pulled from the melee by corrections officers.

As the assault on the jail inmate proceeded, Sgt. Charles White, a 19-year veteran of the Department of Corrections, rushed to the cell block to assist in breaking up the melee. When he did so, Defendant Wilson violently assaulted Sgt. White. Defendants Cheadle, Lyles and Al-Delaema joined in that assault, together pushing, hitting and kicking Sgt. White. Evidence at trial showed that while these men were assaulting Sgt. White, Alonzo Vaughn ran to the area from his jail cell and pushed Sgt. White over a table to the floor, where Sgt. White fell unconscious, and Defendant Morton delivered a blow to Sgt. White's head with his foot.

The assaults were captured by the jail's video surveillance system and the defendants were identified by Corrections Officers who were both present during the melee or were familiar

with the defendants.

In announcing the verdicts, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Department of Corrections Investigator Benjamin Collins for his outstanding investigation and help in securing the testimony of numerous witnesses for trial. He also commended the U.S. Attorney's Office staff that assisted in the successful prosecution of the case, including Paralegal Tameka Garcia, Litigation Specialists Ron Royal, Paul Howard and Leif Hickling, and U.S. Secret Service Forensic Technician Alice Thomas. Finally, he praised the hard work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mary Chris Dobbie and Reagan Taylor who investigated and prosecuted the case at trial.

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